ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus are disclosed for monitoring a retail location using vision-based technologies to recognize predefined fraudulent events. Captured images are processed to identify one or more predefined fraudulent events and to initiate an appropriate response, such as sending notice to an employee for further investigation or recording the event for evidentiary purposes. A number of rules define various fraudulent events. For example, rules can be devised to detect when a patron is wearing stolen clothing out of the changing room, or when a patron is fraudulently attempting to return merchandise without a receipt. Each rule contains one or more conditions that must be satisfied and a corresponding action-item that should be performed when the rule is satisfied. At least one of the conditions for each rule identifies a feature that must be detected in an image using vision-based techniques. An event monitoring process is also disclosed that analyzes the captured images to detect one or more fraudulent events defined by the event rules.

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